

H. Res. 664

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

June 9, 2004.

Whereas President Ronald Reagan reminded us that our great Nation was founded and built by people with great dreams and the courage to take great risks;

Whereas President Reagan reminded his countrymen of the Nation's calling in world history: "From our forefathers to our modern day immigrants, we've come from every corner of the earth, from every race and every ethnic background, and we've become a new breed in the world. We're Americans, and we have a rendezvous with destiny.";

Whereas President Reagan championed freedom and democracy throughout the world, bringing courage to millions of people suffering the bondage of tyranny and oppression;

Whereas on June 12, 1987, President Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of communism's brutal oppression, and demanded: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!";

Whereas on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down, signifying the end of the Cold War;

Whereas President Reagan, and his wife Nancy, brought dignity and respect to the White House and dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas on May 16, 2002, Congress bestowed the congressional gold medal in recognition of their service to the Nation;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's eloquence united Americans in times of triumph and tragedy;

Whereas on January 28, 1986, President Reagan comforted a grieving nation as Americans mourned the death of seven American astronauts who "slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God";

Whereas President Reagan spent the twilight of his life as he always lived, leading a fight against Alzheimer's disease with faith, courage, and dignity, with the greatest love for the Nation and eternal optimism for its future;

Whereas by opening his heart to the Nation about his affliction with Alzheimer's disease, President Reagan promoted greater awareness of this condition; and

Whereas President Reagan appealed to the best hopes of the American people, not their worst fears, and to their confidence rather than their doubts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest appreciation for the profound public service of President Ronald Reagan;

(2) expresses its condolences to Nancy Reagan and to Patti, Michael, Ron, and the entire Reagan family;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the record of President Reagan during this national period of remembrance and to remember always his encouraging words: “We have every right to dream heroic dreams.”; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of President Reagan.

Attest:

Clerk.